

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-75. (Canceled).

76. (Currently amended) Isolated double-stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference by directing cleavage of the mRNA to which it corresponds, wherein cleavage is directed within the region of sequence correspondence with the isolated RNA, and wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular mRNA.

77. (Previously Presented) Isolated double-stranded RNA of claim 76 that comprises a terminal 3' hydroxyl group.

78. (Currently amended) Isolated double-stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, which is chemically synthesized RNA in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference by directing cleavage of the mRNA to which it corresponds, wherein cleavage is directed within the region of sequence correspondence with the isolated RNA, and wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular mRNA.

79-80. (Canceled).

81. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising isolated double-stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference by directing cleavage of the mRNA to which it corresponds and an appropriate carrier, wherein cleavage is directed within the region of sequence correspondence with the RNA, and wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular mRNA.

82-85. (Canceled).

86. (Currently amended) Isolated double stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference by directing cleavage of the mRNA to which it corresponds, wherein the isolated RNA is obtained from double-stranded RNA that has been cleaved into fragments of 21 to 23 nucleotides, wherein cleavage is directed within the region of sequence correspondence with the isolated RNA, and wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular mRNA.

87. (Previously Presented) Isolated RNA of claim 86 that comprises a terminal 3' hydroxyl group.

88. (Currently amended) Isolated double stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, which is chemically synthesized RNA in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference by directing cleavage of the mRNA to which it corresponds, wherein the isolated RNA is obtained from double-stranded RNA that has been cleaved into fragments of 21 to 23 nucleotides, wherein cleavage is directed within the region of sequence correspondence with the isolated RNA, and wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular mRNA.

89-90. (Canceled).

91. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising a ~~pharmaceutically acceptable~~ carrier and comprising isolated double stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference of the mRNA to which it corresponds, wherein the isolated RNA is obtained from double-stranded RNA that has been cleaved into fragments of 21 to 23 nucleotides, wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular mRNA.

92-105. (Canceled).

106. (Previously Presented) Isolated RNA of any one of claims 76-78, 81, 86-88 and, 91, wherein the isolated RNA is complementary to the mRNA.

107. (Canceled).

108. (Currently amended) Isolated RNA of any one of claims ~~12, 16,~~ 76-78, 81, 86-88 and, 91, wherein the mRNA is human mRNA.

109. (Canceled).

110. (Currently amended) Isolated double stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference by directing cleavage of the mRNA to which it corresponds wherein cleavage is directed within the region of sequence correspondence with the isolated RNA, and wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular mRNA, wherein one or more nucleotides of the isolated RNA are a non-naturally occurring nucleotide or deoxyribonucleotide or non-standard nucleotide.

111. (Canceled).

112. (Currently amended) Isolated double stranded RNA of from 21 to 23 nucleotides, in the form of two separate RNA strands which are not covalently linked, that has sequence correspondence to an mRNA and mediates RNA interference by directing cleavage of the mRNA to which it corresponds, wherein the isolated RNA is obtained from double-stranded RNA that has been cleaved into fragments of 21 to 23 nucleotides, wherein cleavage is directed within the region of sequence correspondence with the isolated RNA, and wherein the mRNA is mammalian cellular

mRNA, wherein one or more nucleotides of the isolated RNA are a non-naturally occurring nucleotide or deoxyribonucleotide or non-standard nucleotide.

113-114. (Canceled).

115. (Currently amended) Isolated RNA of any one of claims ~~42, 46, 76-78~~, 81, 86-88, 91, 110, and 112, wherein the isolated RNA is 21 nucleotides in length.

116. (Currently amended) Isolated RNA of any one of claims ~~42, 46, 76-78~~, 81, 86-88, 91, 110, and 112, wherein the isolated RNA is 22 nucleotides in length.

117. (Currently amended) Isolated RNA of any one of claims ~~42, 46, 76-78~~, 81, 86-88, 91, 110, and 112, wherein the isolated RNA is 23 nucleotides in length.

118. (Previously Presented) Isolated RNA of claim 110 or 112, wherein the mRNA is human.

119. (Previously Presented) Isolated RNA of claim 110 or 112 that comprises a terminal 3' hydroxyl group.

120. (Currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising a ~~pharmaceutically~~ acceptable carrier and comprising the isolated RNA of claim 110 or 112.

121. (Previously Presented) Isolated RNA of claim 110 or 112, wherein the isolated RNA is 21 nucleotides in length.

122. (Previously Presented) Isolated RNA of claim 110 or 112, wherein the isolated RNA is 22 nucleotides in length.

123. (Previously Presented) Isolated RNA of claim 110 or 112, wherein the isolated RNA is 23 nucleotides in length.